

week 52:	"happy feet"
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Mumble, wasn't like other Emperor penguins as he couldn't sing but, boy oh boy, could he dance, especially tap dancing! ¹

Games:

1. **Steam Release:** The Fastest Instrument

Depending on the size of the Pack, name the Cubs after four to five musical instruments well known to them. Define the playing area. The Leader stands in the centre of the area while the Cubs run free. The Leader blows a whistle, shouts the name of a musical instrument, and throws a tennis ball into the air. Cubs with the name of that musical instrument try to catch the ball first. Give a bone to the one does. Repeat.

2. **Circle:** What am I doing?

Games module: page 16

3. **Quiet:** Celebrities

After escaping an attack by a Leopard seal, Mumble befriends a group of Adelie penguins called "the Amigos".

Games module: page 20

4. **Revision:** Musical Shoes

"The Amigos" just love Mumble's dance moves and allow him to join their group.

Games module: page 49

5. **Musical:**

Games module: pages 79-80 for a number of musical games

Sense Training:

1. **Sight:** Musical Hunt

The Amigos tried to help Mumble sing a song to Gloria but.....!

Games module: page 80

2. **Sound:** Name that Tune

Mumble certainly knew how to keep a tune with his feet!

Give each Six a couple of well-known tunes such as *Old McDonald Had a Farm*, *Jingle Bells*, *If You're Happy*, etc. You could try the National Anthem or Christmas Carols. In turn each six shakes and bangs out the rhythm of the song and the other Cubs try and guess what it is.

Yarn: (Source Happy Feet: Disney)

Happy Feet

Every Emperor penguin sings a unique song called a "heart song" to attract a mate. If the male penguin's heart song matches the female's song, the two penguins mate. Norma Jean, a female penguin, falls for Memphis, a male penguin and they become mates. They lay an egg, which is left in Memphis' care, while Norma Jean leaves with the other females to fish. While the males struggle through the harsh winter, Memphis briefly drops the egg. The resulting chick, Mumble, is unable to sing but can tap dance. Nevertheless, he is enamoured with Gloria, a female penguin who is regarded as the most talented for her age. One day, Mumble encounters a group of hostile Skua, with a leader who is tagged with a yellow band, which he says is from an alien abduction. Mumble narrowly escapes the hungry birds by falling into a crevice.

Years later, an adult Mumble is ridiculed by the elders. After being isolated during the graduate's song, he is attacked by a Leopard seal. After escaping, he befriends a group of Adelie penguins called "the Amigos", who embrace Mumble's dance moves and take him into their group. After seeing a hidden human excavator in an avalanche, they opt to ask Lovelace, a Rockhopper penguin, about its origin. Lovelace has the plastic rings of a six pack entangled around his neck, which he claims to have been bestowed upon him by mystic beings.

For the Emperor penguins, it is mating season and Gloria is the centre of attention. Ramon, one of the Amigos, attempts to help Mumble win her affection by singing a Spanish version of "My Way", with Mumble lip syncing, but the plan fails. In desperation, Mumble begins tap dancing to "Boogie Wonderland". The elders are appalled by Mumble's conduct, which they see as the reason for their lean fishing season. Memphis begs Mumble to stop dancing, for his own sake, but when Mumble refuses, he is exiled.

Mumble and the Amigos return to Lovelace, only to find him being choked by the plastic rings. Lovelace confesses they were snagged on him while swimming off the forbidden shores, beyond the land of the Elephant seals. Not long into their journey, they are met by Gloria, who wishes to join with Mumble as his mate. Fearing for her safety, he ridicules Gloria, driving her away.

At the forbidden shore, the group finds a fishing boat. Mumble pursues it solo to the brink of exhaustion. He is eventually washed up on the shore of Australia where is rescued and kept at Marine World with Magellanic penguins. After a long and secluded confinement in addition to fruitlessly trying to communicate with the humans, he nearly succumbs to madness. When a girl attempts to interact with Mumble by tapping the glass, he starts dancing, which attracts a large crowd. He is released back into the wild, with a tracking device attached to his back. He returns to his colony and challenges the will of the elders. Memphis reconciles with him, just as a research team arrives, proving claims of the existence of "aliens" to be true. The whole of the colony, even Noah the leader of the elders, engaged in dance.

The research team returns; their expedition footage, prompting a worldwide debate. The government realise they are over-fishing, leading to the banning of all Antarctic fishing. At this, the Emperor penguins and the Amigos celebrate. ¹

Craft/Activity:

1. Handcraft: Music Makers

I wonder if Mumble would have managed to play a musical instrument.

Cubs make a musical instrument – see *Activities module: pages 41-51* (or allow their imaginations to go wild by providing a variety of "junk" and challenging them to make a musical instrument.

2. **Activity:** Conduct the Orchestra

Arrange all your Cubs as though in a band, with the various instruments grouped together. Now try a simple tune with you keeping time, as the conductor and pointing at the section you want to play. Don't forget to add some 'stompers' upturned bowls and broom handles.

Singing/Play Acting:

1. **Singing:** Pack Rap

Let's get the rhythm going and the words flowing!

Get each Six to make up a rap using their instruments to provide the backing rhythm? Tell them to talk about the Cubs – call it "Pack Rap".

2. **Playacting:** The Power of Advertising

Just imagine, with the right advertising, how famous "The Amigos" would be!

Playacting module: page 14.

Advancement covered:

Silver Wolf:

Entertaining: Take part in a playacting activity with your Six.

Gold Wolf:

Entertaining: Make and play a simple musical instrument.

¹Happy Feet: Directed, produced and co-written by George Miller;
Released: Warner Brothers and Village Roadshow Pictures

